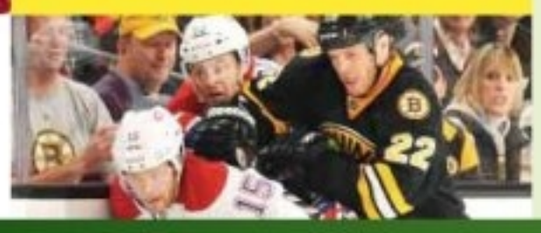
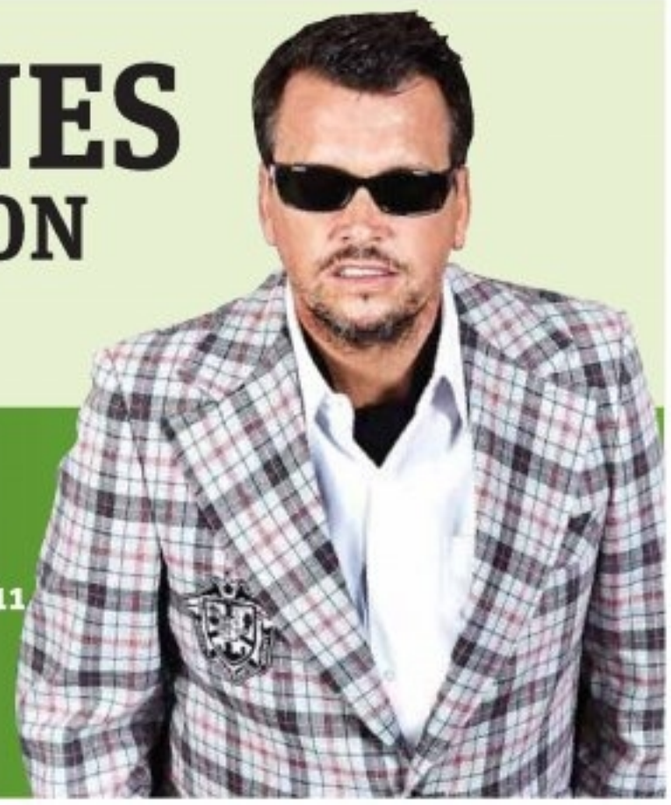
MERRY XXX-MAS WITH 'SLUTCRACKER'
ARTS {page 12}

BRUINS ON FAST TRACK TO CUP REPEAT
SPORTS {page 18}



BOSSTONES
BACK IN BOSTON
MUSIC {page 16}



NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

metro®

BOSTON
Thursday, December 22, 2011
letters@metro.us
Max 52°
Min 36°

Good things come in stolen packages

Police working to unite owners with hundreds of stolen toys and gifts after alleged thieves loot doorsteps Getting back lost items can be drawn out {page 02}

News

Next stop: Macy's Crossing?

Washington, DC, group tells T not to sell station names
Former T GM says 'help us find money' {page 04}

Wedding bells for Timberlake?

A store's tweet may be true, but it may also be a hoax for marketing, obviously {page 10}

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for your chance to win!
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Convict charged in decades-old cold case

A convicted murderer was indicted yesterday for allegedly killing a 31-year-old Lexington woman in 1992.

Craig Conkey, 45, is currently serving a life sentence after he pleaded guilty to the 1994 murder of another Lexington woman.

Authorities said Conkey attacked Kathleen Dempsey inside her apartment in the quiet suburb during a burglary attempt. She was sleeping, but was startled by the noise. That's when Conkey allegedly stabbed her in the chest, neck and back and then fled.

"The murder of Kathleen Dempsey ... stole from her family and friends a kind and caring person," said Lexington Police Chief Mark Corr. "The Lexington community was shocked by the events of that morning."

Authorities said scientific advancements in evidence testing as well as implicating statements from Conkey led to the indictment.

Middlesex District Attorney Gerry Leone said it was the fourth unsolved homicide solved this year in the county.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON

▶ Dempsey

Thieves busted for stealing gifts

Five people, including father and daughter, rounded up for taking holiday packages ◐ Delivery companies say there are ways to make up for lost, stolen items ◐ Many steps in process to recoup delivery items

Five people, including a father and daughter, were arraigned yesterday for allegedly stealing holiday packages left on doorsteps from homes and buildings in Greater Boston.

Somerville police yesterday tried to inventory the hundreds of items they recovered from Manuel Sheehan, 27, and Kristen Casey, 26, both of Somerville. The items ranged from cellphones and coffee makers to children's action figures and lawn decorations.

Police said they were attempting to locate as many owners as they could by Christmas, but if they couldn't, a public viewing of the items would be held next month.

"That's not fair," said Somerville resident Nick Jacovides. "They should have to work to replace the gifts they stole."

Somerville officers stopped the duo Tuesday after receiving information from Medford police who were investigating the doorstep package thefts. Their car contained some stolen items, police said.

When police searched their home they covered even more stolen gifts.

Also Tuesday, Quincy police arrested Michael Ritchie, 58, and his 19-year-old daughter Jennifer. They allegedly stole a package from a Quincy home that contained a music player. When they searched the daughter's home, police said they found a pair of boots also stolen from a home.

A third man, Michael McClellan, was arrested in Quincy for allegedly opening packages from a UPS delivery truck. He worked as a part-time driver, police said.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

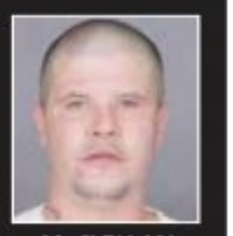
▶ Police display some of the items that were stolen.

SHEEHAN

CASEY

M. RITCHIE

J. RITCHIE


McCLELLAN

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
michael.naughton@metro.us

Claiming a stolen package

Delivery companies offer various means to claim that your package has been stolen, but the process can be long and drawn out.

According to UPS's website, a package has to be lost for 24 hours from the delivery date before a report can be made. Then the company will search for the package, which can take seven to 10 business days. Documents then have to be reviewed.

A FedEx spokesman said reports have to be made to the company and stolen packages are handled on a case-by-case basis. MICHAEL NAUGHTON

In the news

6.58M

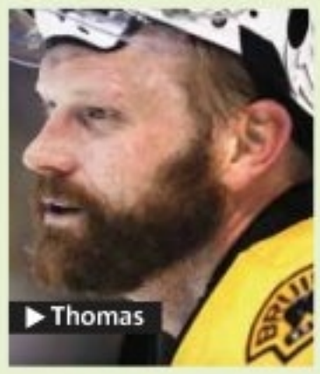
The Bay State's population grew by 40,000 since the 2010 census, according to data released by the agency yesterday. The population data showed that the country as a whole grew at the slowest pace since the mid-1940s. The country's population increased by 2.8 million people between April 2010 and July 2011 to 311.6 million. Texas topped all states with growth of 529,000 people.

METRO

Today's local tweet

"Dishonor on whomever is farting on this bus. Dishonor on you, dishonor on your cow, dishonor on your whole family."

@DRBJUDGINGYOU, ON HIS EVENING COMMUTE HOME ON THE BUS


▶ Thomas

Bruins' Thomas takes T ride

BOSTON. Bruins goalie Tim Thomas is usually blocking shots, but yesterday, he was starring in them.

According to an MBTA spokesperson, Picture Park Productions, along with Arbella Insurance, rented a T bus yesterday for a commercial shoot starring the Stanley Cup winning player.

METRO

Occupy to display nativity

BOSTON. The Occupy Boston squad is heading back to Dewey Square, but they aren't throwing up tents.

Instead, they are putting up a nativity scene on the lawn of their former occupation spot and performing an Occupy-themed nativity play.

The play will begin at noon in the Financial District.

METRO

SALE STARTS DECEMBER 23RD

Boston 212-214 Newbury St. **Natick** Natick Mall **Peabody** Northshore Mall

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

▶ State police are warning drivers with the hope that troopers will not continue to be struck and injured while working roadside details.

Officials putting brakes on unsafe driving habits

- Police urge drivers to stay sober and slow down
- Funding will put more cops on roads during holidays

When you're driving home after celebrating the holidays, make sure you're sober.

State and local police announced yesterday they're beefing up patrols and bagging anyone drunk behind the wheel.

"We want to stress the importance of one of the most basic rules of the road; don't drink and drive," said Sheila Burgess, director of the Executive Office of Public Safety.

Burgess met with MassDOT Secretary Rich Davey and members of the Federal Highway Administration to kick off the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign, which funds 91 local police departments across the state with extra traffic enforcement, including sobriety checkpoints on New Year's Eve.

1,600
Number of drivers cited in the last five weeks since the launch of the "Work Zone Speed Enforcement Program."

"These checkpoints and mobilizations result in the arrest of nearly 800 drunk drivers every year," said Burgess.

Officials also celebrated the success of the "Work Zone Speed Enforcement Program" launched five weeks ago to thwart accidents at roadway construction sites.

"We're asking drivers to please be mindful of their surroundings, as well as to be responsible — both by observing the rules of the road and by not engaging in behavior that will impair your ability to drive," said Davey.

Davey said that last year 40 state troopers or cars were struck in work zones and some troopers were killed or seriously injured.

In 2011, that number of incidents has reached 30 already.

STEVE ANNEAR
steve.annear@metro.us

Group claims selling T station names is corrupt

The MBTA is exploring every avenue to close a budget gap next year, including selling the naming rights to T stations.

But an advocacy group out of Washington, D.C., sent MassDOT Secretary Rich Davey a letter yesterday and urged him to reconsider.

"This approach undermines the integrity of the city's public transportation system and harms its citizens," wrote Robert Weissman, president of Public Citizen's Commercial Alert.

The group said selling station names to corporations forces transit-takers to promote brands.

Davey said it's "imperative," however, for the T to do "anything they can to raise money that's not at the fare box."

"If they are down in Washington, they should be looking for ways to help us find money for the T," he said.

Paul Regan, executive director of the MBTA Advisory Board, said a similar idea failed in the past.

"The money just might not be there," he said.

Regan said signage changes could confuse tourists and locals, as well.

The T hired IMG Worldwide this month to examine the possible market for selling station names.

STEVE ANNEAR

▶ Would Back Bay Station lose its name?

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Why they're against it

1. Corporate naming rights would force people to say the names when describing locations.
2. T should stop the spread of commercialism in public spaces.
3. Ethical and social concerns should come before the desire for a quick buck.
4. It is unlikely to alleviate financial strain.

Sick infant dies

DORCHESTER. The 4-month-old girl who was found sick inside a Dorchester home early Monday died.

Allejah Jarrett was taken to Boston Medical Center in critical condition after police were called to her Ames Street home about 2:20 a.m. and found her not breathing.

She died Wednesday night.

There were no visible signs of trauma and police are still investigating.

METRO

WRITE TO METRO:
LETTERS@METRO.US

Biz owner charged

MEDFORD. The owner of Pinky's Famous Pizza in Medford was indicted on drug trafficking charges, authorities announced yesterday.

An arraignment date has not been set for Nikita Yanakopulos, 34, of Medford.

He was initially arrested in August when authorities received a tip about a large shipment of marijuana that was being sent to him.

Authorities said they saw him loading boxes into a truck and recovered $750,000 worth of high-grade marijuana.

METRO

Cafe not quitting

BOSTON. After months of speculation that The Otherside Cafe would be replaced by a furniture store, the vegetarian restaurant on Newbury Street announced yesterday that it was staying put.

According to a post on the restaurant's Facebook page, plans have changed, and the eatery is no longer leaving behind its legacy as scheduled for Dec. 23.

"We are no longer closing!!!! This is not a joke!! Just found out this morning!!" the post said.

More than 400 people "liked" the cafe's announcement.

METRO

Believe

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London blue topaz and diamond ring in 14k white gold.
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SUPER BUY $399
Reg. $900.
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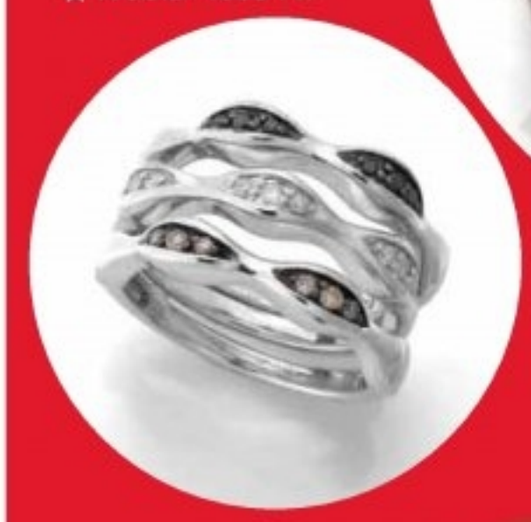
★WebID 578911.

SUPER BUY $99
Reg. $300.
2-piece set: cultured freshwater pearl pendant & earrings with diamonds in sterling silver.
★WebID 324940.



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SUPER BUY $99
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SUPER BUY $99
Reg. $300.
3-piece set: blue and white topaz pendant, ring & earrings in sterling silver. ★WebID 501755.

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Diamond-accent† hoops in 14k white (★WebID 434478) or yellow (★WebID 280248) gold.

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N. Korea's military to share power with Jong-un

North Korea will shift to collective rule from a strongman dictatorship after last week's death of Kim Jong-il, although his untested young son will be at the head of the ruling coterie, a source with close ties to Pyongyang and Beijing said.

The source added that the military, which is trying to develop a nuclear arsenal, has pledged allegiance to the untested Kim Jong-un, who takes over the family dynasty that has ruled North Korea since it was founded after World War II.

The source declined to be identified but has correctly predicted events in the past, telling Reuters about the North's first nuclear test in 2006 before it took place.

The comments are the first signal that North Korea is following a course that many analysts have anticipated — it will be governed by a group of people for the first time since it was founded in 1948.

Both Kim Jong-il and his father Kim Il-sung were all-powerful, authoritarian rulers of the isolated state.

REUTERS

GETTY IMAGES

▶ North Korean soldiers gather near the bank of the Yalu River yesterday in the North Korean town of Sinuiji.

Syrian forces massacre 111 civilians and activists

Syrian forces killed 111 people ahead of the start of a mission to monitor President Bashar al-Assad's implementation of an Arab League peace plan, activists said yesterday, and France branded the killings an "unprecedented massacre."

Rami Abdulrahman of the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 111 civilians and activists were killed in addition to more than 100 casualties among army deserters in Idlib province, turning yesterday into the "bloodiest day of the Syrian revolution."

REUTERS

"[It was the] bloodiest day of the Syrian revolution."

RAMI ABDULRAHMAN OF THE SYRIAN OBSERVATORY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

metro MAN AND WOMAN OF THE YEAR 2011

Today's the last day to vote in our Man and Woman of the Year contest. Apple co-founder Steve Jobs and the Occupy movement are vying for the win, while Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords is in third place. Place your vote before 5 tonight by e-mailing your pick to mwoty@metro.us. The winner will be announced in a special holiday edition on Dec. 27.

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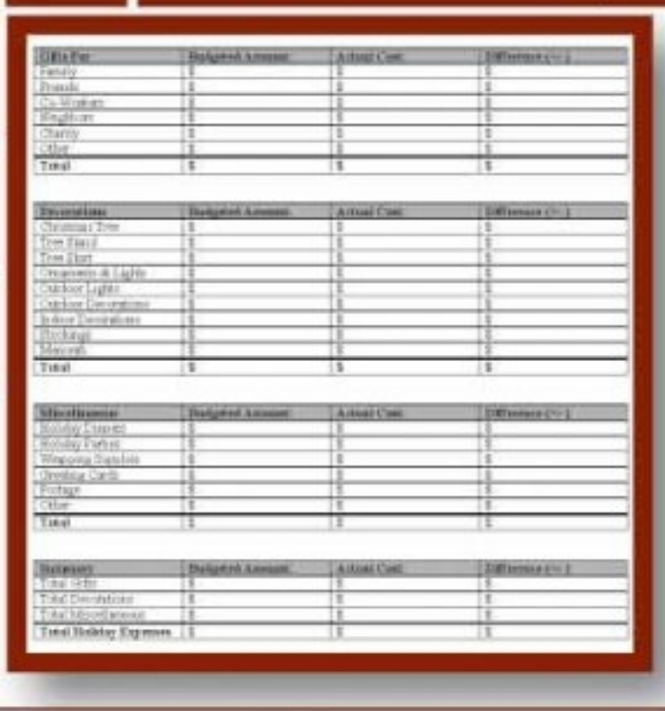
1 ACCC's Holiday Budgeting Worksheet



Gifts For:	Budgeted Amount	Actual Cost	Difference (+/-)
Family	$	$	$
Friends	$	$	$
Co-Workers	$	$	$
Neighbors	$	$	$
Charity	$	$	$
Other	$	$	$
Total	$	$	$

Decorations	Budgeted Amount	Actual Cost	Difference (+/-)
Christmas Tree	$	$	$
Tree Stand	$	$	$
Tree Skirt	$	$	$
Ornaments & Lights	$	$	$
Outdoor Lights	$	$	$
Outdoor Decorations	$	$	$
Indoor Decorations	$	$	$
Stockings	$	$	$
Mistletoe	$	$	$
Total	$	$	$

Miscellaneous	Budgeted Amount	Actual Cost	Difference (+/-)
Holiday Events	$	$	$
Holiday Parties	$	$	$
Wrapping Supplies	$	$	$
Greeting Cards	$	$	$
Postage	$	$	$
Other	$	$	$
Total	$	$	$

Summary	Budgeted Amount	Actual Cost	Difference (+/-)
Total Gifts	$	$	$
Total Decorations	$	$	$
Total Miscellaneous	$	$	$
Total Holiday Expenses	$	$	$

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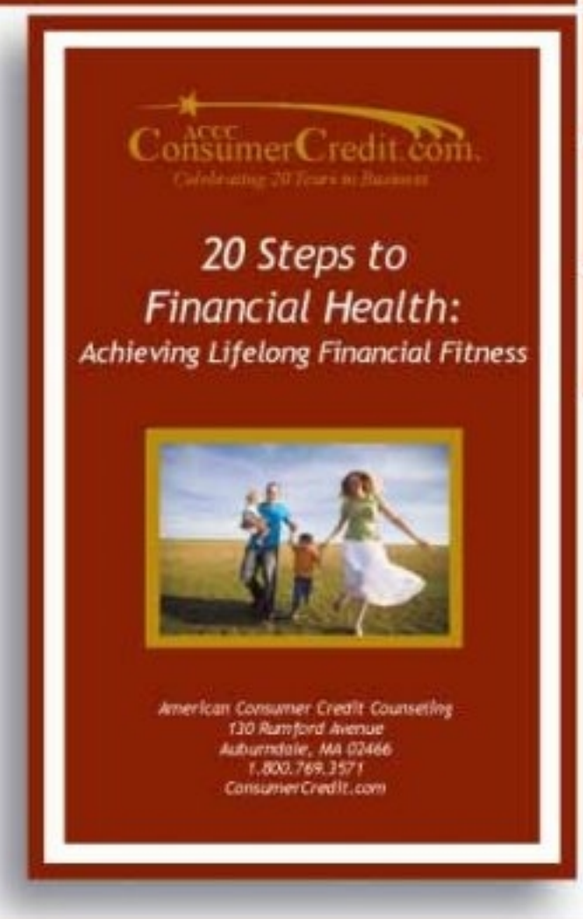

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Report: Chinese hacked US

WASHINGTON. Hackers in China broke through the computer defenses of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce last year and were able to access information about its operations and its 3 million members, the Wall Street Journal reported yesterday.

In Beijing, China dismissed the report.

The Journal, citing unidentified people familiar with the matter, reported the operation against the top American business lobbying group involved at least 300 Internet addresses and was discovered and shut down in May 2010.

REUTERS

Investor pleads for quick action on AOL

NEW YORK. AOL, losing as much as $500 million annually in its display advertising business, must take "immediate action" to stem shareholders' losses, activist investor Starboard Value LP said.

Starboard, which said it holds a 4.5 percent stake, sent AOL a letter dated today that outlines its poor performance, estimating the Internet company sees "staggering" operating losses in display ads.

AOL CEO Tim Armstrong has been struggling to revive sales after the separation from Time Warner in December 2009, as AOL competed for ad dollars with Google and Facebook.

BLOOMBERG

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION: AMES/JPL-CALTECH/NASA VIA GETTY IMAGES

▶ Kepler-22b is 2.4 times the size of Earth.

Earth-size planets?

HOUSTON. NASA's Kepler mission has discovered the first Earth-size planets orbiting a sunlike star outside our solar system, a milestone in the search for planets like the earth, the space agency said on Tuesday. The planets, called Kepler-20e and Kepler-20f, are the smallest planets outside the solar system confirmed around a star like the Sun, NASA said in a statement.

REUTERS

Charging its way into popularity: The bus?

Curbside bus service is up as gas prices and perks such as Wi-Fi make driving less attractive But regulators warn that safety may be an issue

CHRIS HONDROS/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Greyhound has been profiting from low-cost service BoltBus. With fuel prices high, bus services have seen an increase in ridership.

Megabus.com and BoltBus led U.S. curbside bus companies that boosted trips by 32 percent this year as travelers opted to leave their cars behind and surf the Internet while traveling, DePaul University researchers said.

The popularity of U.S. intercity buses picking up passengers at the curb rather than in a terminal has been growing since the industry reversed a 46-year decline in 2006, Joseph Schwieterman, director of DePaul's Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development in Chicago, said in a telephone interview. Bus traffic including traditional service grew this year at the fastest pace since 2008, the institute said in a study released today.

Quoted

"Bus travel is suddenly cool."
SCHWIETERMAN

Higher gasoline costs make driving a car more expensive at the same time as buses offer access to free Wi-Fi and cheaper fares than on planes and trains, Schwieterman said. Once viewed as a last resort in the U.S., bus travel is now attracting more affluent riders, students and women traveling alone, he said.

"Bus travel is suddenly cool," Schwieterman said. "There's a fatigue over driving combined with a revitalized image of the bus."

Daily intercity curbside bus departures increased to 778 from 589 a year ago, according to a DePaul study to be published today. Scheduled departures for the total bus industry, which includes Greyhound Lines, increased 7.1 percent to 2,693. **BLOOMBERG**

Safety second?

NEW YORK. Regulators are questioning the safety of bus travel after 28 people died in eight crashes this year. The National Transportation Safety Board warned in an Oct. 31 study that curbside operators are seven times more likely to be involved in a fatal wreck than traditional intercity lines.

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2

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

Joel McHale feels informed, Rosario Dawson is rocking out, Nathan Fillion is feeling forgetful and Sarah Silverman isn't ready for battle.

▶ @joelmchale: Thanks news outlets. I am now fully informed about how the Post Office is busier around the holidays. Man, was I in the dark.

▶ @rosariodawson: I'm so glad I made it back to London in time to surprise my Mama with Duran Duran at the O2! They just played my song! Rio!!!!!!

▶ @sarahksilverman: Had a war time dream where I had to go to battle but I didn't want to because I had a zit

▶ @NathanFillion: Dear Morning Coffee, How was your ride to work on top of my car? Glad you made it. But now you're iced coffee. Nathan

Fillion

THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

He's no Seacrest

Steve Jones reportedly will not return as host of the U.S. edition of "The X-Factor" after one season on the job, according to Hollyscoop. "He got terrible reviews from critics when he started, and things haven't got better. There have been mistakes, and he just doesn't seem to have the knack for dealing with contestants," a source says. "The executives at Fox have already decided not to renew his contract — and so, short of a miracle happening, it is pretty much a done deal that he will not take part next season."

However, Jones' rep told People magazine that the reports of his imminent dismissal were "a fabrication." "There have been absolutely no conversations about Steve Jones leaving 'The X Factor,'" the representative told the magazine.

Man, it's sad that a rumored firing is the only way to make people care about "The X-Factor."

▶ Is Steve Jones in or out?

▶ Internet hoax No. 34515 (this week)?

Timberlake off the market?

I take this with a huge grain of salt, but some people out there on the World Wide Web are reporting that **Justin Timberlake** and **Jessica Biel** are engaged. (Remember: This is the same Internet that also said that **Bon Jovi** died earlier this week.) Lainey Gossip points to this tweet from a gallery owner in Jackson, Wyo.: "Word on the street is that Justin Timberlake proposed to Jessica Biel at the Amangani last night...we're picking out post-engagement presents for them just in case they come in! Trying to play it cool..."

Sounds like a huge publicity stunt from the gallery store owner, but you never know. The Twitter works in mysterious ways.

Talking points

JLo divorce is getting nasty

While they've remained civil since their July split, it's reportedly about to get very ugly between **Jennifer Lopez** and **Marc Anthony** with a "vicious" custody battle on the way, according to Us Weekly. The trigger seems to be Lopez's new boyfriend, **Casper Smart**, and his apparent bonding with Lopez and Anthony's 3-year-old twins, **Max and Emme**. Anthony reportedly "hit the roof" after seeing photos of Lopez, Smart and the kids enjoying Thanksgiving together in Hawaii and is "going back on his word and saying he wants joint custody," a source says. "He wants to make Jennifer suffer because she's having fun with someone new, and he knows this will hurt her."

Penn gets into another screaming match

Sean Penn reportedly got into a screaming match at LAX airport recently with former costar — and long-time Penn critic — **Maria Conchita Alonso**, the actress reveals in an interview with Washington, D.C., radio station WMAL. "I said, 'You are a communist, Sean Penn.' He said, 'You are a pig!' So I said, 'And you are a communist a—hole! Is it great to live the way you do as a communist?'" Alonso says. The actress, who starred with Penn in 1988's "Colors," says she wanted to apologize "for calling Sean Penn an a—hole. He is an intelligent man," she says. "But if someone calls me a pig, I am not going to turn the other cheek. I don't regret calling him a communist."

▶ Penn

▶ Alonso

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

The Bieber paternity case still on

Justin Bieber may have thought that taking a DNA test had gotten him clear of **Mariah Yeater**, the woman claiming Bieber is the father of her baby, but as far as she is concerned, nothing has been resolved. "I dropped my lawsuit, but never my claim," Yeater tells the Chicago Sun-Times. "I still definitely want a DNA test and I want to refile my paternity case." As for **Robbie Powell**, who claims that he actually is the baby's father? "He is not the father, and he's locked up and out of the picture."

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Ballerinas on Wall Street and more

1. Tom Cruise and Jimmy Fallon play "Wreath Toss" during a taping of "Late Night With Jimmy Fallon" at Rockefeller Center on Tuesday in New York City.

2. Dancers Tiler Peck and Robert Fairchild from The New York City Ballet's production of "The Nutcracker" posed for a photo after ringing the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday in New York City.

3. Sir Paul McCartney performed onstage at The Liverpool Echo Arena on Tuesday in Liverpool, United Kingdom.

4. Lady Gaga arrived at Narita International Airport on Tuesday in Narita, Japan.

5. Filmmaker Martin Scorsese (who is the human form of the old man in "Up") attended the screening of "Mean Streets" at The Film Society of Lincoln Center on Tuesday in New York City.

6. Rapper Roscoe Dash attended the VIBE & Roscoe Dash J.U.I.C.E. 2011 holiday party at Gold Bar on Tuesday in New York City.

7. Harry Connick Jr. arrived for the "Late Show With David Letterman" at the Ed Sullivan Theater on Tuesday in New York City.

1: THEO WARGO/NBCUNIVERSAL/GETTY IMAGES)
2, 5: STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY IMAGES
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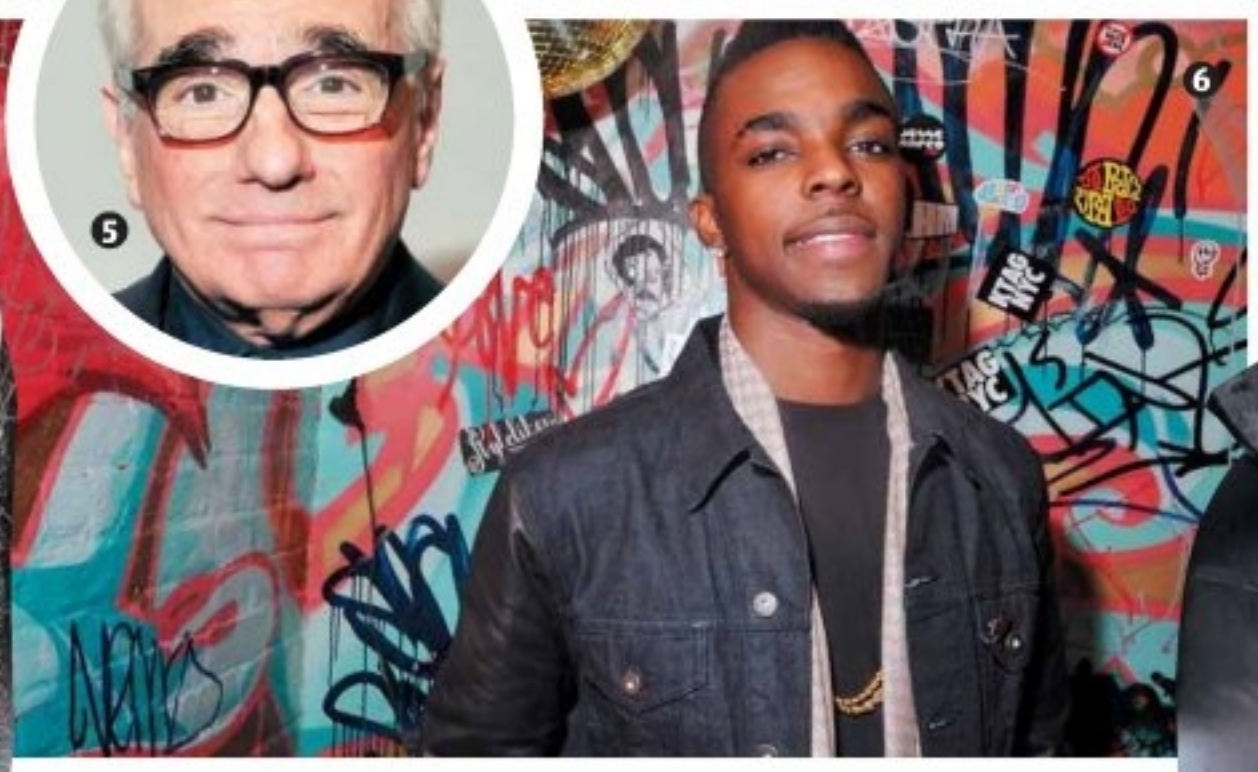

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myentertainment

Bringing sexy back

"The Slutcracker — A Burlesque" is making a splash to sold-out audiences again this Christmas season at the Somerville Theatre.

Now in its fourth year, the show not only brings out the (quite extensive) local burlesque community, but more and more "Slut virgins" are coming to see this fun, sexy and topless version of "The Nutcracker."

Set to Tchaikovsky's classical score, an adult Clara gets engaged on Christmas Eve. But Aunt Drosselmeyer gives her niece a pink dildo (the magical Slutcracker Prince) and insists that she explore her sexuality before committing.

The production value gets better each year. A true highlight is the Battle between Fritz (Paolo Mania) and the ugly sweater brigade and the Slutcracker (Oliver Tryst) and its batteries. Other great moments in dirtiness include the leather and whip Russians with their Gimp, the Dance of the Reed Pole (Artistic Director Vanessa "aka Sugar Dish" White) and the Wet Spot Fairy (UnAmerika's Sweetheart Karin Webb).

DAVIS WEINLAND

▶ Yes, "The Slutcracker" will have your jaw in your lap too.

XXX-mas Eve

Not sure what to do on Christmas Eve after you've been to church? Celebrate "Slutcracker's" 50th performance on XXX-mas Eve, featuring preshow live music by Walter Sickert and the Army of Broken Toys plus a live reading of "'Twas the Night Before Slutcracker!"

If you go

▶ **'The Slutcracker — A Burlesque'**
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Top 5 films

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

▶ "The Adventures of Tintin" is a must-see 3-D experience.

Five reasons to face the crowds in theaters on Christmas Day

1 'The Adventures of Tintin' The beloved Belgian comic book character gets animated in 3-D by two of the most celebrated director-slash-producers in Hollywood, Steven Spielberg and Peter Jackson. Expect to be amazed.

2 'We Bought a Zoo' Cameron Crowe directs Matt Damon in this tearjerker based on a true story about a widower who buys a dilapidated zoo in order to give his kids a wholesome childhood.

3 'The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo' David Fincher adapts the book and Swedish movie for those of us who don't like reading subtitles. Rooney Mara, as Lisbeth Salander, has already been nominated for awards for her stellar performance opposite Daniel Craig.

4 'Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows' Holmes (Robert Downey Jr.) and Watson (Jude Law) pick up where they left off — and this time, they're after dastardly Professor Moriarty (Jared Harris of "Mad Man") with Rachel McAdams and the original Lisbeth Salander from the Swedish "Girl With the Dragon Tattoo" films, Noomi Rapace.

5 'Mission: Impossible — Ghost Protocol' Tom Cruise may be deep into his 40s, but that hasn't stopped the impeccably fit actor from performing most of his own stunts in the fourth installment of this series. With a bombing of the Kremlin incorrectly blamed on his team, Ethan Hunt (Cruise) and his colleagues are forced to go underground to prove their innocence. Shot partially in IMAX, this film's bound to be at the top of the list for any thrill-seeker.

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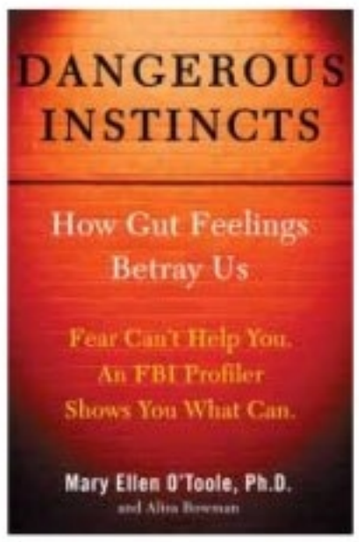
DANGEROUS INSTINCTS
How Gut Feelings Betray Us
Fear Can't Help You. An FBI Profiler Shows You What Can.
Mary Ellen O'Toole, Ph.D.
and Alisa Bowman

Screening for crazies: Tips for evaluating someone you met online

FBI profiler and author of 'Dangerous Instincts' Mary Ellen O'Toole, Ph.D., shares her tips for personality assessment Key red flags to look for

Given that online dating has become so common, it's easy to lose sight of the fact that some of the people you'll meet on the Web could be not only just not your type, but mentally unstable as well. Author Mary Ellen O'Toole, Ph.D., has evaluated serial killers during her long career as an FBI behavioral analyst. In her new book, "Dangerous Instincts," O'Toole outlines the methods she uses to screen for personality disorders. She offers some strategies for teasing out valuable information that can keep you safe while dating online.

Here are some dating profile red flag phrases:

▶ **"I'm not into playing games."** "That is almost what we would call a protest statement," says O'Toole. "You never brought that up to begin with. It's not likely that you would, so why do they bring it up? Do they bring it up because they've been accused of that before? Do they bring it up because that's the kind of thing they do? Do they bring it up because they're projecting onto you and are anticipating that you'll play games? You don't know, but ... you want to see if this ultimately becomes important."

▶ **"I'm looking for someone who is going to be my soul mate."** "You want to look at someone who seems to become jealous, or possessive and says, 'I can't live without you' or 'You are my soul mate, I can tell right away.' A needy man or woman might think 'He really loves me,' but the flip side of that — three months down the road — is, 'This guy is a stalker.'"

▶ **"I'm not the kind of person who would cheat on my wife."** "That makes them look very defensive," O'Toole says. "The next question: 'Is that just their linguistic style or is there a reason for it?' There are some people who have that 'the world is half-empty' outlook and they believe that no matter what they do, you're going to cheat. It becomes an inevitable conclusion for them."

HEIDI PATALANO
heidi.patalano@metro.us

Reader love notes

SEND US YOUR LOVE NOTES

E-mail **lovenotes@metro.us** with your special message and we'll print it in the next dating section. Please keep your note to 20 characters or fewer.

▶ *DM U mke my hrt happy! SM*
▶ ***MerMoo, wuv u so much - 4 ever stinky lou!***
▶ *Pretty Girl, u r everything to me. Luv u forever and a day! Freestyles Finest*
▶ ***Lance, without u I can't breathe or smile, u complete me. A. C.***
▶ *Elias Babe, I Luv You So Much! Ur A Dream In Everyway! Luv Naya*
▶ ***Tina, Thank you for 35 years of beautiful love and marriage. You will always be my IGW.***
▶ *Kevin, Elephant juice! We are truly one. Love Nyya*

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Letters

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Not Gaga for this headline

RE: "YOU AND ME COULD WRITE A BAD ROMANCE": Did you write that headline yourself? I don't know about you, but me could write a better headline. **SANDY FOUTZ, VIA E-MAIL**

Voters expect the impossible

RE: "VOTE THE LITTLE KINGS OUT NOW": Mike Miller refers to elected officials as kings. If the American dream has become a nightmare, it cannot be placed so conveniently at the doorsteps of elected officials. We have pushed elected officials into an economic catch-22 in the way of our many entitlements — which we wish to retain, while refusing the increased taxation that go with them. These are mutually exclusive propositions. **JOHN DINGA, BROCKTON**

Mixed bag on our freedoms

RE: "FOUNDERS GAVE PRESS THE RIGHT": Mr. Van Looy's recent letter distresses me. His assertion is incorrect: The First Amendment never mentions news media corporations. Even more distressing is the claim that the Constitution gives rights: The Federalist Papers show that the Constitution only limits the powers of the government; it can't give rights because they are already possessed by the people. **JESSE M. PORCH, WATERTOWN**

The historical record is very clear that the founding fathers meant that the First Amendment was a universal principle that applied to all. The "freedom of the press" does not protect the press as an industry, it protects everyone's use of the printing press. The vast majority of all Supreme Court opinions on this issue have ruled that there is to be equal treatment for all speakers, regardless of whether the speaker is part of the press as an industry or not. **RON SHELTON, VIA E-MAIL**

There is a humongous difference between the mere advocacy coming from an editorial page like Metro's and the financial control exerted by the super-wealthy, self-serving types such as the Koch brothers, Bank of America and Citibank. If the paper doesn't serve public interest, people can stop reading it. The same is not true of all-too-powerful, robber baron banksters who have their filthy little fingers in every bit of money they can find around the globe! **JD DUCAS, SOUTHIE**

E-mail your letters: **letters@metro.us**

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** If you hope to be an effective leader, you must first set the example. They'll believe only in what you do, not necessarily in what you say.
♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** That sudden whim to drop in on someone might not be such a good idea. If she or he is in the middle of something and doesn't want to be disturbed, you won't be welcomed.
♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Look gift horses in the mouth, and with a jaundiced eye. Should someone give you something for no apparent reason, chances are he or she will be expecting you to return the favor.
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** This can be either a good day or a disappointing one, depending upon your choice of companions. Select pals who share the same interests as you.
♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** Your attention span might not have much staying power, so it could be best to do all the demanding tasks first. As you tire, switch to no-brainer jobs that can be knocked off quickly.
♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** Don't be too quick to put much credence in a business proposal presented by a new acquaintance. The item that's for sale could be all sizzle, no steak.
♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Should two friends of yours be at odds, even though you favor them equally and wish to help, stay out of it and don't try to be a peacemaker. Both could turn on you instead.
♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** If you're using a helpmate to tackle a hazardous task, keep a watchful eye on what this person is doing. Being less knowledgeable, he or she won't be as safety-conscious as you.
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** As prudent as you are, you could still let your guard down and empty your wallet before you know it. Strive to be prudent in all your involvements, especially ones of a social nature.
♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** When making a request of your mate, a lack of tact on your part could cause him or her to react in a way opposite from the one you were hoping for. Don't be careless in your choice of words.
♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Friends aren't likely to be prepared to cope with any last-minute changes. Thus, try to let them know your intentions well in advance.
♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** Your expectations might not be based upon realistic factors. Thus, self-discipline is likely to be required in order to subdue temptations. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

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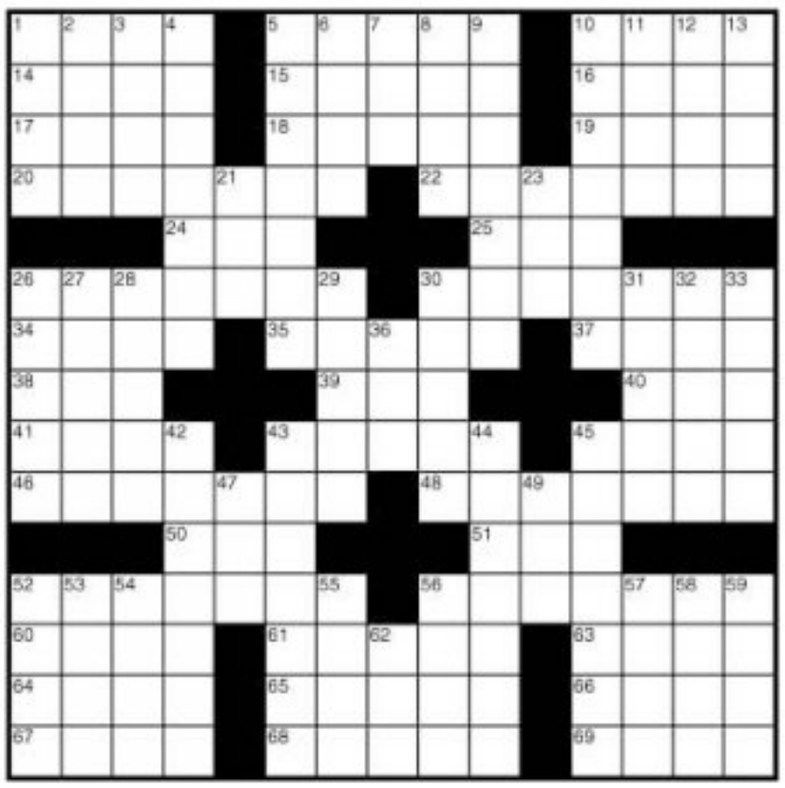

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5 Hannibal foe
10 Seductive woman
14 Heavy metal
15 Orchard tree
16 Shrink's reply (2 wds.)
17 Grumpy mood
18 Slot machine city
19 Toucan feature
20 Like pottery
22 Repeat
24 Comic __ Philips
25 Hawaii's Mauna __
26 Like some engines
30 Main
34 Yalies
35 Minute amounts
37 EEC currency
38 Old crone
39 Kind of reaction
40 San Francisco hill
41 Piccadilly statue
43 Magazine parts
45 Pocket jingler
46 Counts
48 Image receivers
50 Stein filler
51 TV knob
52 Sell moonshine
56 Beat back
60 __ spumante
61 Bricklayer
63 Men's furnishings
64 Deep-voiced lady
65 Trouser feature
66 Comics' Miss Kett
67 Right away
68 Golden
69 Ricky Ricardo

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1 Etc. category
2 Urn homophone
3 Yves's eve
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5 Pasta choice
6 Sheik's cartel
7 Auto-sticker info
8 Jai __
9 Cuddles up
10 Hum
11 Riding the waves
12 Carnivore's diet
13 Lap dog
21 2,001, to Augustus
23 Immeasurable time
26 Change the length
27 A moon of Jupiter
28 Intolerant person
29 Forum attire
30 Supply a banquet
31 Tiff (hyph.)
32 Bakery come-on
33 Earring sites
36 Barge pusher
42 Depot
43 Knock off the air
44 Highway speed, often
45 Watered down
47 Bracket type
49 Go one better
52 Cote sounds
53 Peace Prize city
54 Director __ Preminger
55 Dressy event
56 Chestnut or bay
57 Lo-cal
58 Cliques
59 __ Morales of "La Bamba"
62 Do embroidery

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

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SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

Y	E	L	P	■	S	O	F	A	R	■	D	A	B	S
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S	T	A	L	E	M	A	T	E	■	H	E	I	S	T
■	■	■	U	T	A	■	■	K	O	I	■	■	■	■
A	D	A	M	A	N	T	■	L	I	G	N	I	T	E
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T	A	R	■	■	G	A	F	F	E	■	■	E	M	U
A	M	I	S	■	R	I	O	T	■	B	O	N	E	D
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M	A	S	K	■	H	E	R	O	D	■	T	O	S	S
T	R	E	Y	■	E	S	S	A	Y	■	S	L	A	T

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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Boston Dining Cards is a 52-card deck of coupon cards. Each card gets diners a $10 discount at some of the city's most delicious restaurants like Bella Luna, Grasshopper and Tupelo. The last two cards in the deck are 'freebie' cards and can grant the lucky recipient something like a free latte or dish of pasta.

Buying the $20 deck won't just give foodies a reason to eat out once a week for a year. For each set bought, $1 is donated to Boston Children's Hospital.

"We normally don't do advertising, so when this came along with a good cause on it, we did it," says Paul Overgaag, owner of The Red House Restaurant in Cambridge. "People can come in and use it on our famous lobsters or homemade pasta from Switzerland."

The cards hold $500 in savings and also include restaurants like The Friendly Toast in Cambridge, Estragon Tapas Bar in the South End and Cognac Bistro in Brookline.

Buy the deck of cards to save money or as a gift for someone else. The expiration isn't until the end of 2012 — so without any blackout dates, that means great food at a discounted price can be enjoyed once a week for a year.

SAMANTHA SWEENEY
letters@metro.us

Where to buy

Decks can be bought in person at the Barnes & Noble in the Prudential and the Brookline Booksmith in Coolidge Corner — as well as other locations. For more info or to buy online, visit www.bostondiningcards.com

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hot tickets

Getting ready to Throwdown again

Bosstones are back in Boston, playing their annual string of shows for the 14th time Dicky Barrett reflects on his 2011 and the band's new album

As Boston's own Mighty Mighty Bosstones prep for their annual Hometown Throwdown, Metro asked frontman Dicky Barrett how 2011 has treated him.

"2011, for me personally, will be one of the most memorable years of my life," Barrett says from his home in Los Angeles. "I got married and had a beautiful baby girl, Lily. I played Fenway Park with the Mighty Mighty Bosstones. I released our latest and greatest effort, 'The Magic of Youth.' Oh, and my house burnt down. It's been eventful, to say the least."

The title of said "greatest effort" may have a nostalgic ring to it, but Barrett says there's a funny side too.

"It's nostalgic — but also, we did it for comic effect. Who do these old bastards think they are calling their record 'The Magic Of Youth'? Plus, I like the way it sounds like an old Frank Sinatra record, an old 1950s song title. For me, it's representative of the Mighty Mighty Bosstones and how we met and that the band could only be a product of our youth. [Youth]'s a powerful thing. We couldn't meet each other now and say, 'Hey, you wanna start a band?' Something as magical as the Mighty Mighty Bosstones can only be born in times of youth."

LINDA LABAN
linda.laban@metro.us

If you go

The Mighty Mighty Bosstones 14th Hometown Throwdown with H20, The Slackers, The Smoking Popes and more
Dec. 28-30, 7 p.m.
House of Blues
15 Lansdowne St., Boston, $25-$35, all ages, 800-745-3000
www.livenation.com

The fourth wave of ska?

The Bosstones were part of the '90s third wave of ska, a revival that followed the U.K. explosion in the early 1980s, and the original blast from Jamaica in the 1960s.

"I was heavily influenced by the second wave of ska, which to me [includes] some of the greatest records. They mean so much to me. I have a love for the first wave ... but I was inspired by ... The Specials and Madness."

Could there ever be a fourth wave?

"There probably shouldn't have been a third wave even if I benefited greatly from it," laughs Barrett. "A fourth would be pushing it."

Tickets are still available for all shows but Dec. 30. The Bosstones are, from left, Chris Rhodes, Joe Sirois, Ben Carr, Barrett, Joe Gittleman, Lawrence Katz, Kevin Lenear and Tim Burton.

Tickets

On sale now

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- **Tea Leaf Green**
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- **Fun.**
  April 21
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- **Bear In Heaven**
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  Brighton Music Hall
- **Yanni**
  June 10
  Bank of America Pavilion

Also on stage

Tap Battle

Dec. 31, 8:15 p.m.
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900 Boylston St., Boston
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www.firstnight.org
OrigiNation, O'Shea Chaplin Dance and the Boston Tap Company will face off in a three-way melee to determine which is the tappinest dance ensemble. What's that? You say "tappinest" isn't a real word? Well, go and see these groups perform yourself, and if you're not impressed then you can tell us it isn't a real word!

Mike Daisey

Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m.
Boston University Theatre
252 Huntington Ave., Boston
Free, 617-542-1399

▶ So ya say you want a resolution? Try Mike Daisey.

www.firstnight.org
This storyteller, known for last year's "The Agony and Ecstasy of Steve Jobs," will perform a set on our attitudes toward New Year's entitled "When the Clock Strikes." Expect Daisey, who has also done pieces on such mavericks as L. Ron Hubbard and Nikola Tesla, to provide a unique insight into a holiday with two curious main traditions: overzealous resolutions and over-the-top boozing.

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3

Cup defense in full swing for Bruins

Early slump a thing of the past 2011-12 team may be better than Cup winning squad 3 ways the B's can keep things rolling into the New Year

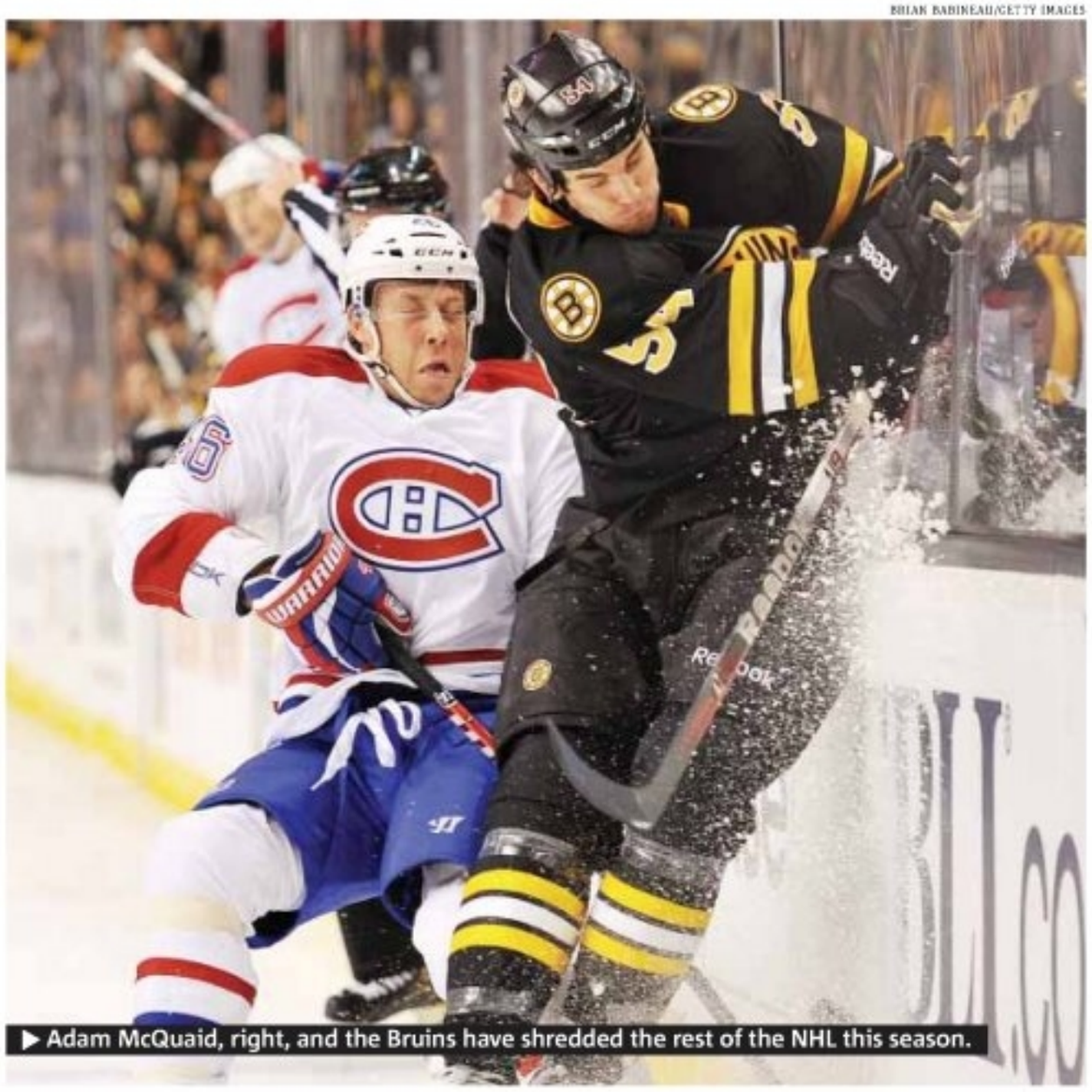
Hangover? What hangover?

The streaking Bruins were leading the Eastern Conference with 45 points as of yesterday, owning a 19-2-1 record since Nov. 1, leaving their 3-7 start long forgotten as 2011 slips into 2012.

"It's definitely a lot of fun," Bruins forward Brad Marchand said. "When you're winning a lot, it's a lot easier to come into the rink."

Here are three things the Bruins must be mindful of as the season's second half begins.

BRIAN BABINEAU/GETTY IMAGES



▶ Adam McQuaid, right, and the Bruins have shredded the rest of the NHL this season.

1 The High Road

Friday's game will be the Bruins' 20th at home out of 33. The schedule begins to correct itself with a three-game swing from Phoenix to New Jersey, via Dallas, from Dec. 28 through Jan. 4. But the Bruins have already shown they are kings of the road, posting the league's second-best road record at 10-3.

2 Rask, not Risk

Tim Thomas is 13-1 with a 1.70 goals against average in his past 15 starts. But his most significant number is 22, as in games started. Backup Tuukka Rask is posting his own impressive GAA of 1.82 in 10 starts.

3 Depth charge

Injury, suspensions, missed breakfasts. To quote the philosopher Manny Ramirez: "It don't matter." The Bruins' depth has kept the puck rolling, and that depth will pay even greater dividends as the season gets deeper.

JEFF GOLDBERG

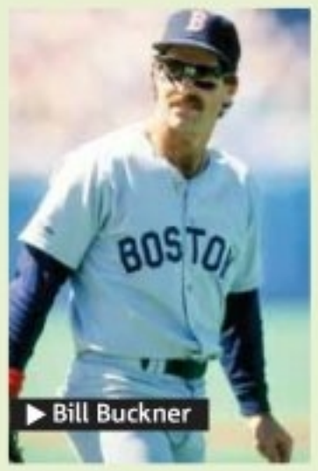
In the news

Mayweather goes to prison

It'll probably be easier to duck Manny Pacquiao in jail.

Boxer Floyd Mayweather was sentenced to 90 days in jail by a Las Vegas judge yesterday after pleading guilty to a domestic violence incident last year involving his ex-girlfriend.

The incident reportedly took place in September 2010 and involved hair-pulling, punching and arm-twisting while two of their children watched.



▶ Bill Buckner

Buckner will not join Sox

After a month of speculation that he would join Bobby Valentine on the Red Sox bench in 2012, Bill Buckner will reportedly join the Chicago Cubs organization as a hitting coach for the Class A affiliate Boise Hawks.

Buckner was the manager of the independent league Brockton Rox this past year.

METRO

Bobby V shuffles staff

Red Sox third-base coach Tim Bogar will be sitting next to Bobby Valentine in 2012 as he will become the team's bench coach.

Former MLB player Jerry Royster will become Boston's new third-base coach.

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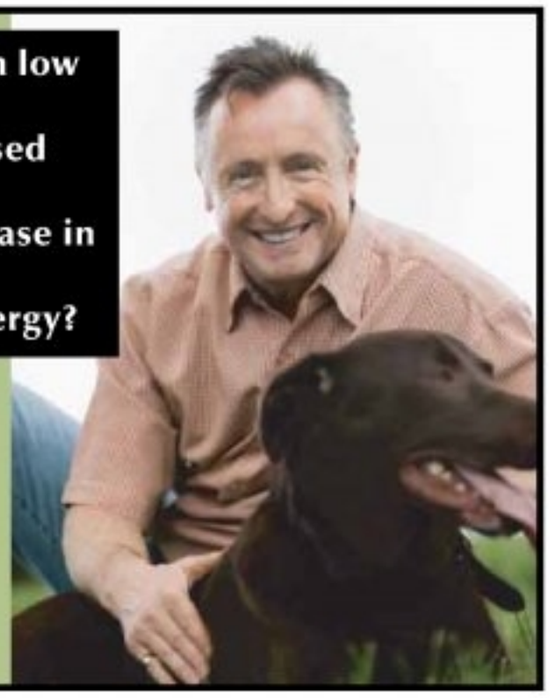

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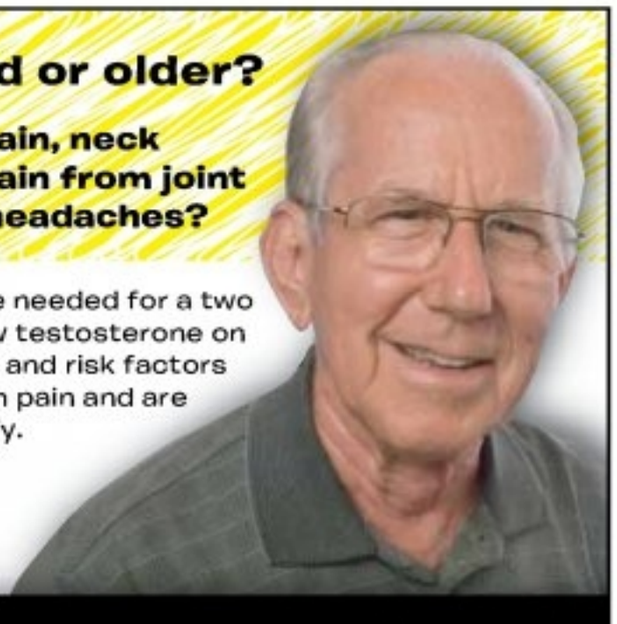

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